

—THE—

Women's National ☼

☼ Indian Association.

—REPORT—

—ON—

MISSIONARY WORK.

November, 1888.

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| GUACANAGARI | PONTIAC | BLACK HAWK |
| MONTZUMA | CAPTAIN PIPE | KEOKUK |
| GLATIMOTZIN | LOGAN | SACAGAWEA |
| POWHTATAN | CORNPLANTER | BENITO JUAREZ |
| POCAHONTAS | JOSEPH BRANT | MANGUS |
| SAMOSEY | RED JACKET | COLORADAS |
| MASSASOTT | LITTLE TURTLE | LITTLE CROW |
| KING PHILIP | TECUMSEH | SITTING BULL |
| UNCAS | OSCEOLA | CHIEF JOSEPH |
| TEDVUSKUNG | SEQUOYA | GERONIMO |
| | SHABONEE | |



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AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY THE
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REPORT
OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON
Missionary Work.
NOVEMBER, 1888.

The Missionary Committee of the Women's National Indian Association brings, with gratitude to God, another year's story of labor for some of the neglected of our aboriginal race. In no previous year has so much been attempted or accomplished by your committee. The three new missions which had just opened at the time of our last annual meeting, November, 1887, have prospered beyond those of any other year, and the disbursements for this department have been more than \$5000, as against the \$3700 of last year. Faithful missionary work has been done in Idaho, in Dakota, and in Nebraska. A brief survey of each station will be of interest.

1st. THE IDAHO MISSION.

This work, opened among the Bannocks and Shoshones, at Ross Fork, Idaho, in July, 1887, by our missionary Miss Amelia J. Frost, was re-inforced by the coming of Miss Ella J. Stiles in September, news of which event, however, was received too late for insertion in our last year's Missionary Report. These two ladies have been doing genuine pioneer work, with great devotion and faithfulness despite hardship, loneliness, and discouragement as they have waited for the fruits which must always be slow in such situations. Letters in the Missionary Report of last year, and in our new periodical, *THE INDIAN'S FRIEND*, have given us pictures of their field and of the people for whom they labor, and later letters confirm the hopes of wakening interest in Indian minds. Last May, Agent Gallagher of that station visited our national capital and there advised with the secretary of your committee in regard to the affairs of the mission whose interests both served, while in Washing-

ton, by various calls upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The approval of the latter regarding a missionary-farm was expressed, and it was decided to be wise to make request for 160 acres of land, to become the home of a missionary farmer who should live among and teach the Bannocks and Shoshones in connection with the missionary station there. Agent Gallagher on this occasion addressed a ladies' meeting, warmly expressed his approbation of the work of our missionaries, and spoke of the improvements he was then making in the rooms they occupied in one of the government houses near his own dwelling at Ross Fork.

In July last, the Connecticut Indian Association, which had from the beginning furnished the entire financial support of this station—though, like all the other missions of the National Association, it was under the sole direction and responsibility of the national missionary committee,—decided by vote to accept from the national committee the entire charge of this mission. The formal transfer was made in September, from which time the work in Idaho became the mission of the Connecticut auxiliary. Generous plans are made by that Association, its formal application for the use of 160 acres of land filed in Washington, has been granted, money for the construction of needed dwellings is in hand or pledged, and a model and many-sided Indian mission will no doubt hereafter be reported along with its other able work by the Connecticut Indian Association.

A single extract from one of Miss Frost's letters shows one method of the many used to win the attention and awaken the desire of barbarian Indians for knowledge, and illustrates the indispensable perseverance of those who there do the laborious pioneer teaching. She writes: "There are Chinamen employed as cooks at the trader's store and section-house. I asked 'Hong' one day if he would like to come and learn to read. They now come each evening at 8 o'clock and stay 'till passenger train he come at 9.45' They learn rapidly. I sent to Salt Lake City for a book for each and they now read, write and spell. I pick out the blocks with letters to spell a word and drop them on the table for them to find and lay the letters up, to show the word. I wish our Indians showed as much eagerness to learn as the Chinamen do. While the latter were reading this evening 'Yank,' one of our Indians, his wife and their little girl, knocked at the door and came in. Note that Yank knocked at the door, 'all the same as *tiro*,' (white folks.) a new accomplishment to him. They seemed interested in watching the Chinamen read and after these had gone Yank asked our words for nose, eyes, chin etc., and tried to pronounce them, at the same time telling us the Indian names for these

She adds: "There are but few Indians here now. Some are on the river bottoms and others in the mountains for the time." This coming and going is another of the great difficulties in way of civilizing wild Indians.

2d. THE MISSION AT ROSEBUD AGENCY, DAKOTA.

This field, selected at the request of your committee by Bishop Hare, has for a little more than a year been under the care of the Rev. Joseph Taylor, a Sioux Indian and a clergyman of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Hare writes regarding the situation: "The chapel and house are completed and have been occupied by Mr. Taylor since last Autumn, and his work has been of a very fruitful character. I met him and some of his flock a few weeks ago and was much pleased with what I saw. His zeal has poured itself out in all good works." The cottage and chapel referred to at that station, with fences, stables and other out-houses have been built and provided at an expense of something more than \$1300, a portion of this sum having been contributed last year. This station is among the Dakota missions of the Episcopal Church, and is now, according to the original plan, to be transferred to the care of Bishop Hare, who has from the beginning had the kind oversight of our work at that place. The history of the station has shown a steadily growing hold upon the people's hearts, and the chapel is now well-filled at the Sunday services. The Sunday-school is large, and the inspiration towards practical civilization and industry are marked.

3d. THE OMAHA MISSION.

The plan of your committee in beginning work on this interesting field was to occupy only temporarily the government buildings granted by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the greater need being at Omaha Creek as was then thought. But the Indians did not settle so rapidly at that point as was anticipated, changed circumstances making it not likely that they would soon do so, and meantime the work begun by Dr. and Mrs. Hensel at the old agency quarters grew in regard and influence faster even than had been hoped. Therefore with the advice of the Presbyterian missionaries at other points on the reservation, and of Miss Fletcher, as well as our own missionaries, it was decided unwise to move the main mission to Omaha Creek. Conference with officials of government and leading Indians had also shown it to be practicable to purchase a few acres of land at the agency, where the Indians wished our missionary headquarters to be, and it was the opinion of all concerned that the fitting center for our missionary operations was there,

Further, the secretary of the committee in an interview with Senator Dawes last winter received assurance that a clause should be inserted in a bill for the relief of the Omahas which would empower them to sell to our Association the five acres of ground needed, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Hon. J. D. C. Atkins, promised the consent and approbation of the Indian Department to this transaction. The Omaha Bill became the law of the land, the Indians gave their consent to the purchase, a survey has been made and the last formalities are now being concluded.

THE NIGHT SCHOOL.

The night school in the hands of Dr. and Mrs. Hensel steadily grew in interest until the room was full. During the blizzard weather of last winter some of the young men walked miles to attend, and all seemed in earnest to use the opportunity thus given. In proof of this earnestness they attended regularly until the opening of spring when, after the long day's agricultural work, it was impossible to reach the school and it was discontinued until the spring hurry should be over.

THE SEWING-SCHOOL.

This has been successful, and many other things besides sewing have been taught the women in it. Boxes and barrels of supplies for the school have been generously donated by the associations in Massachusetts, in New Jersey, in Kentucky, and elsewhere, as will be seen in the appended report on missionary boxes. Uncut materials have been sent and have proved far more useful than made garments, and it is hoped that the supplies hereafter for missions will be chiefly of this kind. A late letter says: "Our sewing-school is doing wonders and we have more pupils in it than we can take care of." Fuller references to the sewing-school, as well as to other matters of interest at the mission have appeared in our OMAHA LEAFLET, and in our periodical, THE INDIAN'S FRIEND, and will continue to appear in the latter.

HOSPITAL WORK.

Early in the year it became manifest that some place must be provided in which one or two or more sick persons might, at need, have medical care such as it would be impossible to give them in their homes. Your committee by the generous contributions of the Maine, New Jersey, Washington and other auxiliaries, were able to provide one room in the mission-house for this purpose, and late letters assure us that it has been and will be easy to have in it as many as the mission-

aries can care for. One poor woman lately *asked* to be taken, saying, "I am tired of my home, and I am hungry." It was a case almost of starvation. But it was not long before the sufferer, at first seeming almost in a dying condition, was so far restored as to move about, sew, and give promise of real restoration. Did time permit your committee might report all the cases helped and give much more of interesting detail of life at the mission.

FUNDS FOR THE MISSION.

The salary of Dr. Hensel, (\$1000,) has been furnished by the Massachusetts auxiliary, the salary for Mrs. Hensel, (\$500,) by the Kentucky association, and both have been promptly paid into the treasury. The Morristown branch of the New Jersey association has furnished funds for building a missionary cottage (perhaps it will be at the new station), and other branches of that State society provide the furniture, and will probably give money with which to erect a school-building to be, also, the mission chapel. The associations of Maine have pledged funds for adding a wing to the buildings, and the society in Washington, D. C., hopes to provide a hospital wing. The mission premises, now that they are legally secured to the Association for mission purposes, have been improved by the addition of stables, new pumps, fences and various other things needed. A garden has been prepared, and bushes of small fruits and other inexpensive things for future use have been added under the energetic and wise management of Dr. Hensel.

GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE MISSION.

As the Omahas are United States citizens, their property is now under the protection of law. Their spirit of progress is marked as compared with that of most other tribes, and their former factions are uniting under the tact and care of those laboring among them.

A second station for Sunday-school work was in the Spring opened at Omaha creek, nine miles from the agency station, with a service on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, in addition to the Sunday school at 3 P. M. at the agency station. At the latter also there is a 5 o'clock meeting on Sunday afternoon for old men, and house-to-house visitation goes on through the week. Only very brief extracts from letters can be here given. Dr. Hensel writes during the Summer; "I have been going day and night, have had scarcely a moment for anything excepting my medical practice and Sunday work. We have great encouragement at our new station on Omaha creek. To-day and to-morrow I am to help the

Indians build a bridge, and next day I must go to Bancroft for lumber, which has been very scarce and difficult to haul, the heavy rains having taken away the bridges.

* * * * *

"Yesterday we had a Sunday-school picnic on Omaha creek. It was the most satisfactory thing of the kind I have attended. At the opening all rose and sang the doxology, then there was an invocation by Rev. Mr. Finley; singing; an address of welcome by Levi Levering, lately a pupil at Carlisle; singing; another address by Henry Fontenelle; singing; an address by Big Elk; an address by John Webster, and one by the medical missionary, and then dinner, each family taking a number of guests until all had been entertained. We furnished two tubs of iced lemonade and an abundance of ice cream at our own cost, and made no expense to the Association. I also purchased at my own expense a set of croquet, two bats and a ball. Everything passed off quietly and genteelly. Persons present said, 'This is the first time that all factions have been united upon any such occasion.' I am thankful for all this." *"I just feel infatuated with this work"* he adds in a later letter. What better could be said of a worker for God, for Christ and the poor?

PROPOSED NEW MISSIONS.

It will be seen from a reference to our missionary funds of this year, as compared with those of last year, that there has been much increase of interest in this most important department of the Association's work, yet this increase is not half adequate to meet the pressing pleas that constantly come to your committee for the establishment of new missions in destitute fields. There are many such in Montana and other sections of the great Northwest, the Apaches of Arizona too, The Navajos, and other tribes in New Mexico and California appeal to us. The case of the Apache prisoners in Alabama, soon to be removed it is hoped to a permanent home of their own, calls most pathetically for help, and the Kiowas, and Comanches of Indian Territory present another most needy field. There are consecrated women ready to devote their lives to this service and who are asking to be sent forth and sustained in it. Some of these are physicians whose knowledge and labor are most sadly needed. The sufferings of Indian women from barbarism and superstition are constant and appalling, and only women's help can adequately reach such. Your committee long to supply these great needs and are confident that the auxiliaries of the Association could supply the means needed and would do so were the case fully understood.

The Brooklyn auxiliary purposes the establishment of a mission among the Kiowas, and the new association at Atlantic city, New Jersey has asked for the establishment of a station among the Mission Indians of California. Encouraged by this interest your committee have decided to accede to this request as will be seen by late articles in our periodical. What auxiliaries of the Association are ready to take a share in this mission for the long-suffering red men and women whose oppressions and robberies are so graphically described in H. H's Ramona?

In conclusion your committee, grateful for the funds hitherto furnished, and for the twelve missions gained directly and indirectly by this Association's work, would remind you that they must stand with sad hearts and eager yet vain hands before these who call for help until the auxiliaries of this Association authorize and enable them to provide the missionaries and buildings needed. The mere statement of the destitution is more eloquent than any comment upon it could be. It is this: There are still in this Christian land more than fifty tribes and separated parts of tribes of native American heathen without Christian instructors.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. QUINTON, for the Committee.

Report of Missionary Boxes Sent.

MICHIGAN.

The Woman's Indian Association of Michigan has sent to Mrs. Andrew J. Blackbird of Harbor Springs, Michigan, son of an Ottawa chief, and the author of the history of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, boxes of clothing, groceries etc., valued at \$173.50.

A similar box has been sent to Rev. Wm. Gibson of Harbor Springs to distribute among Indians there, valued at \$29.00.

PITTSBURGH, PENN.

This Association sent to the Otoc Indian school matting for a floor, valued at \$10.00

KENTUCKY

Association at Louisville has sent to Dr. and Mrs. Hensel a box of supplies valued at \$30.00.

Also a Christmas box to a school in Indian Territory, valued at \$12.00.

NEWPORT, R. I.

From this Association a box was sent for the Omaha sewing-school.

ALBANY, N. Y.,

Woman's Indian Association sent to a teacher in Dakota a box to be used in teaching girls to sew. Value \$150.00.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

From this Association a barrel was sent to the Omaha Mission. Value \$60.00.

BRYN MAWR, PA.

Association sent \$35.00 with which to buy stoves for our chapel at Rosebud Agency. Also to the Idaho mission fifty gospel hymnbooks.

BETHLEHEM, PA.

This Society sent a box to the Omaha mission, estimated at \$40.00.

BRATTLEBORO, VT.

Association sent to Marguerite La Flesche a box for the Omaha Mission. Value \$30.00.

CONNECTICUT.

This Association has sent several boxes and barrels of clothing to the Idaho Mission, to the Turtle Mountain Indians, to Pine Ridge Agency, and to Miss Goodale's pupils. Value not stated.

DELAWARE.

State Association, at Wilmington, sent a box to the Winnebago Agency, valued at \$50.00.

This report representing 20 or 25 boxes sent is incomplete as many boxes and parcels have been sent not named above, the annual reports of various associations not having yet arrived at date of going to press.

OFFICERS

OF THE

Women's National Indian Association.

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